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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 279972

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INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /013 R

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DRAFTED BY COM/OED/EID/BC&OV:LOUCAS
APPROVED BY EB/OCA/REP:JBRABENS
AF/W:JMSEGARS (INFO)
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R 231741Z DEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 279972

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BDIS, LI
SUBJECT: A.S. INDUSTRIES VS: MAMADU DARAMEY

1. DOC AIRPOUCHING FOLLOWING TRADE COMPLAINT INVOLVING OVER 600,000 DOLLARS ACCORDING TO COMPLAINANT'S EARLY DECEMBER LETTER TO LIBERIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK:

2. IN JUNE DR. MATTHEW COHEN REPRESENTING COMPLAINANT VISITED MONROVIA AND INITIATED TRANSACTION FOR PURCHASE OF DIAMONDS FROM MAMADU DARAMEY WITH ASSISTANCE A.B. TOLBERT AS COMPLAINANT'S (BUYER'S) LEGAL COUNSEL. ON JULY 22 COHEN PAID TOLBERT 25,000 DOLLARS (15,00 FOR EXPORT LICENSE AND 10,000 LEGAL FEE).

3. ON SEPTEMBER 26 COHEN WITH DARAMEY AND SAMUEL FREEMAN (TOLBERT'S BODY GUARD AND MEMBER NATIONAL POLICE) DEPOSITED AT CUSTOMS BUREAU MONROVIA 5 PARCELS ROUGH DIAMONDS UNDER ENTRY PERMIT NO. 4963 FOR WHICH COHEN PAID 609,680 DOLLARS. AND EXPORT PERMIT NO. 196/314/8'74 ISSUED SAME DATE.

4. SINCE THEN COMPLAINANT NEVER RECEIVED DIAMONDS. AFTER REPEATED ATTEMPTS CONTACT MONROVIA CUSTOMS, AL INGBER, BUYER'S MANAGER, FINALLY CONTACTED BY PHONE MR. RANDAL, MONROVIA CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER, WHO SAID DIAMONDS AND MONEY
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HAD DISAPPEARED AND "WHOLE THING WAS A FIX." ALTHOUGH ANDAL

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STATED HE HAD CHECKED WITH HIGHER AUTHORITIES AND WOULD SEND TELEX CONFIRMATION, COMPLAINANT HAS RECEIVED NOTHING FURTHER FROM HIM. RECENTLY INGBER ADVISED BY FRIEND IN LIBERIA THAT DARAMEY ARRESTED FOR FRAUD.

5. INGBER HAS REQUESTED DOC'S ASSISTANCE ON HOW TO PROCEED IN SETTLING THIS VERY LARGE CLAIM AGAINST PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH GOL OFFICIALS. DOC REQUESTS YOUR ADVICE SOONEST. KISSINGER

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